

REMARKS

In the April 18, 2005 Advisory Action and the January 6, 2005 Office Action, all of the claims remain rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections are made in the Advisory Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the April 18, 2005 Advisory Action, claims 1 and 17 are being amended by the current Amendment. Thus, claims 1-22 are pending, with claims 1 and 17 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On May 17, 2005, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Emmanuel M. Marcelo, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Marcelo for his courteous interview and the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application.

During the interview, Applicants' representative explained, demonstrating a fishing reel having the Miyazaki patent's structure and a fishing reel having the structure of the present invention, how a spool and a spool driving mechanism *cannot* function without the cover member in the fishing reel of the Miyazaki patent, and how a spool and a spool driving mechanism *can* function without the cover member in the fishing reel of the present invention.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the January 6, 2005 Office Action, claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,377,925 to Miyazaki ("Miyazaki patent"). In response, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections of the Office Action. Claims 1 and 17 are amended only to clarify the language.

More specifically, Applicants disagree with the Office Action's assertion that the spool and the spool drive mechanism of the Miyazaki patent function in cooperation with each other without the outer plate portion 3 being attached to the attachment frame. This is because the spool 13 of the Miyazaki patent falls out of the reel when the cover members 2 and 3 are removed from the reel. Applicants believe that the frame 1 of the Miyazaki patent

alone *cannot* allow the spool and the spool driving mechanism to function in cooperation with each other.

As clearly seen in Figures 7 and 8 of the Miyazaki patent, the spool shaft 15 protrudes from the spool 13 toward, and is supported by, the outer cover members 2 and 3. The left side plate 1b has a hole thereon through which the spool 13 is inserted and removed into and from between the side plates 1a and 1b. *See* column 3, lines 62-66. As seen in Figure 1, the cover members 2 and 3 are coupled to each other and the frame 1 via screws 12, which are inserted through holes 1p and 3a. When the screws 12 are removed, both of the cover members 2 and 3 are disengaged from the frame 1, the cover member 3 being disengaged first. Since the spool shaft 15 is supported by the outer cover members 2 and 3, when the cover member 3 is disengaged from the frame 1 by loosening the screws 12, the spool 13 and the spool shaft 15 are no longer supported on the left side plate 1b side. Accordingly, the spool 13 and the spool shaft 15 fall out of the frame 1 through the hole on the left side plate 1b when the cover member 3 is disengaged from the frame 1. Naturally, the frame 1 alone *cannot* allow the spool 13 and the spool driving mechanism to function in cooperation with each other when the cover member 2 and 3 are disengaged from the frame 1, since the spool 13 and the spool 15 are falling out of the frame 1.

Further regarding claim 17, it is not clear from the Office Action which structures of the Miyazaki patent the Office Action deems correspond to the first and second cover members and the first through fourth side plates. Applicants particularly believe that the Miyazaki patent does not disclose or suggest the first and second cover members and the third and fourth side plates. Thus, Applicants believe that the Miyazaki patent does not disclose or suggest the arrangement of claim 17.

It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 17 are not anticipated by the prior art of record.

Moreover, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-16 and 18-22 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 1 and 17, and are therefore narrower. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does

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not anticipate independent claims 1 and 17, neither does the prior art anticipate dependent claims 2-16 and 18-22.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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